

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claims 1 and 6 to read as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A folding device comprising:
- a) a primary roller for receiving a material to be folded;
  - b) a primary disk in communication with said roller for creasing and folding said material as said material travels from said roller to said disk, wherein said primary roller and said primary disk are both free-spinning.

6. (Once Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said primary disk is a drive disk, and said roller is a free-spinning disk. roller

**REMARKS**

Applicant reaffirms election of claims 1-16 and cancels claims 17-25 without prejudice.

Support for amendment to claims 1 and 6 may be found for example in the specification on page 8, lines 4-18.

**§102**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 as anticipated by US 3,202,066 (Palmer). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Palmer discloses folding blade members (e.g., elements 10 and 40 a-d in Figs. 1 and 4, respectfully) and corresponding die pad members (e.g., elements 8 and 38 a-d in Figs. 1 and 4, respectively). The die pad and blade members "are driven by motor means and

synchronized so that they have a substantially equal tangential speed....." (Palmer, col. 2, lines 30-32). This drive synchronization is clearly shown in Fig. 1. In the discussion of Fig. 4, drive synchronization is disclosed (...die pad members 38....and cooperating folding blade members 40.....are driven synchronously ....". Palmer, col. 4, lines 17-21).

FIG.  
As amended, the Applicant requires that roller and disk be free-spinning (claim 1) or that the roller be driven and the disk free-spinning (claim 5) or that the disk be driven and the roller free-spinning (claim 6). Since Palmer does not identically disclose the claimed subject matter in claims 1-9, the rejection based on Palmer is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

§103

The Examiner rejected claims 10-16 under §103(a) as unpatentable over Palmer in view of US 4,635,915 (Sato). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sato discloses a device consisting of a drag roller 1, a former 2, a slitter 3, a folding cylinder 4, a cutting cylinder 5, pins 61, 62, and 63, cutting knives 71 and 72, paper pressing members 81 and 82, cutting knife receiving members 91, 92 and 93, folding blades 101 and 102, second fold rollers 11, and nipping rollers 12 (col. 4, lines 67, col. 5, line 9). The Sato device is essentially a plow and in a device of this type, the drag roller does not act as a feeder but is frequently braked to slow it down, or just make it stationary to create a relative speed between the drag roller and the former so that the material being processed remains taut.

no specific in claims.  
Furthermore, the pair of folding rollers 11 in Sato do not make a longitudinal fold; instead the rollers make the fold perpendicular to the flow direction. In Sato, the material being folded is actually folded between the nip of the folding rollers as folding blade 101 (102) is projected to insert the material into in to the folding roller.

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In contrast, the Applicants invention operates in a fairly tension-free manner. Applicant's invention is already folded before entering the nip of the fold rollers 50 after passing over disk 20. Fold rollers 50 function to press together the two surfaces of material 30 coming off disk 20 to more tightly complete the fold already made.

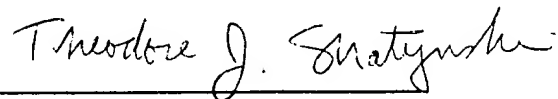
Thus, the Examiner's combination of Palmer and Sato is selective and clearly does not render obvious Applicant's invention. The synchronized drives of Palmer's folding blades and die pad members are not required in Applicant's invention. Sato's method of folding also requires slitting of the material being folded (see item 3 of Sato device). Since it is not apparent what precisely would teach or suggest the combination of the widely different disclosures of Palmer and Sato, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Based on the foregoing, applicants believe the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and notice of allowance are solicited. If any questions arise which can be disposed through interview, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required for this submission to Johnson & Johnson  
Deposit Account No. 10-0750/JJM-550/TJS.

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Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

1. (Once Amended) A folding device comprising:
  - a) a primary roller for receiving a material to be folded;
  - b) a primary disk in communication with said roller for creasing and folding said material as said material travels from said roller to said disk,  
wherein said primary roller and said primary disk are both free-spinning.

ENG.

6. (Once Amended) The device of claim 5-1, wherein said primary disk is a drive disk, and said roller is a free-spinning disk.